Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) is entrusted with the responsibility of selecting officers for the Board level appointments in the Public Sector Enterprises. Accordingly, to fill up the post of Director (Technical) in National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), PESB, after interview of the eligible candidates, recommended a panel of three candidates to Ministry of Steel. After the approval of ACC, the Government has recently appointed Shri V. Satyanarayana, General Manager, NMDC Ltd., who was number one in the said panel, as Director (Technical) and he has already assumed charge of the post w.e.f. 20.11.96. Some representations have been received in the Ministry against the appointment. However, the appointment has been made strictly in conformity with the stipulated procedures.

Introduction of Dual Price System under PDS

1026. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has recently been decided by the Government to introduce dual price system at PDS Outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the indices to demarcate the buyers who are proposedly to benefit from this new system; and

(d) how the system would be executed?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to restructure the Public Distribution System with focus on the poor. The matter was also discussed in the States/ UTs Food & Civil Supplies Ministers Conference on 7.8.1996 and the Conference endorsed the proposal for provision of specially subsidised foodgrains to the population below poverty line.

Streamlining the PDS on these lines is under consideration of the Government.

Use of coal as the major source of energy

1027. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the countries having some of the largest deposits of coal;

(b) whether this source of energy is not being exploited adequately to discourage the use of oil; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) India holds only 0.83% of gross and around 7% of proved world reserves of coal. All efforts are made to maximise the production of power grade coal to meet the requirements of the power sector. However, due to a variety of constraints like financial, technical, non-availability of land etc. it is not possible to meet the ever increasing demands from the power sector in the short term.

Imports of coking and non-coking coal in the country

1028. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the lop sided coal mining policy adopted by the Government, the country is increasingly becoming dependent on imported coal;

(b) the reasons for imports of coking and non-coking coal in the country;

(c) the reasons for failure to achieve coal production targets both in quantitative and qualitative terms and at times even down ward revision of the targets; and

(d) the quantities and values of imports of coking coal, non-coking coal, coke etc. during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till date)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Import of coal constitutes only a very small percentage (about 3-4%) of the total coal consumed in the country.

(b) Domestic coking coal production has not been able to keep up with the increase in demand from the steel sector. The country has limited reserves of coking coal. Prime Coking

Reserves are available only in the upper coal horizons of Jharia coalfields in Bihar which have been worked for over a century and have therefore been seriously depleted. Import of coking coal required for metallurgical purposes cannot be totally eliminated, since these are also required for blending with indigenous coal on quality considerations. Coast based power stations and cement plants are also importing small quantity of non-coking coal on consideration of transport logistics and commercial prudence as well as against export entitlements.

(c) Coal companies have generally been able to achieve their target of coal production. Coal production targets are fixed in consultation with Planning Commission after carefully considering various factors like demand, available production capacity, transport constraints, investments etc.

(d) The quantities and value of imports of coking and non-coking coals etc. during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April—September, 96) are given as below:

(Source DGFT)

Data provisional

Year	Coking Coal	Non-coking and others including coke	Total	Value
	(Fig. in Million tonnes)			(Rs. in crores)
1994-95	10.16	1.23	11.39	2224
1995-96	9.37	4.31	13.68	3093
1996-97 (Apr—Sep., 96)	NA	NA	6.01	1578

Cess collected and Transferred to sugar Development Fund

1029. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cess that has been collected and transferred to Sugar Development Fund upto the end of June, 1996;

(b) the number of sugar factories which have been advanced loan from this fund in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last two years; and

(c) the number of applications for loan pending at present and by when they are proposed to be given loans?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The total amount collected as cess on Sugar upto the end of June, 1996 was Rs. 1840.77 Crores and an amount of Rs. 1656.00 Crores has been transferred to SDF.

(b) As per Statement enclosed (*See* below).

(c) As on date 14 applications for modernisation loan and 34 applications for Cane Development loans are pending. The pending applications are at various stages of processing. A loan would be advanced after completion of requisite formalities in accordance with SDF Rules and Guidelines.

Statement

Number of Sugar Factories to whom Loan have been advanced from the Fund During 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	State	1994-95 No. of Factories	1995-96 No. of Factories
1.	Bihar	1	3
2.	Uttar Pradesh	6	8
TOTAL		7	11

Dry Port at Kandla

1030. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Dry Port at Kandla (Gujarat) to facilitate exports of agricultural and horticultural produce from Punjab and other North Indian States following the completion of the BG line between Bhatinda and Kandla;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme,